

REMARKS

This a response to a non-Final Office Action.

Claims 1-14 are pending and under examination in the present application; claim 14 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

The subject matter of claim 14 has been inserted into claim 1. Since claim 14 was indicated to be allowable, it follows that claim 1 is now allowable. Furthermore, claim 8 is indicated to be allowable and is dependent upon claim 1, which is also believed to be allowable.

The rejection of claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (second paragraph) for being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention, is respectfully traversed in view of the amendments offered with this Response. The lack of clarity with regard to the amended limitation of an intersecting angle and how it differs from the angle limitation defined as $\theta 2$ is rendered moot in view of the deletion of the paragraph beginning "an intersecting angle of said first linear portion" (as shown in brackets at lines 25-27 of claim 1).

Regarding claim 5, the distance (t) is substantially constant without reference to the "in said adjoining part" which has been deleted. It is believed that this clarifies the language of the claim. As regards claim 6, with reference to the "adjoining part," it is explained that the adjoining part "includes a widening part

in which the distance (t) gradually increases towards the radially outer end of the adjoining part." It is believed that this language now clarifies claims 5 and 6. The rejection of claims 1-7 and 9-13 under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Ushikubo (USP 4,917,164) (the '164 reference) of record, is respectfully traversed. As explained above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 14, which is directed to allowable subject matter and, therefore, claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record. As to the rejection of claim 9, it is noted that in Fig. 1 of the '164 reference, the distance "GT" is not clearly expressed. The '164 reference does not provide a quantitative relationship between the relevant points. The fact that they appear to be extremely close to one another is merely suggestive that the distance GT is a rather small distance. What one of ordinary skill in the art would have concluded from this is somewhat unclear. Claim 9 still requires that the radially distance between the end point of the carcass turnup and a point Q is less than 0.5 times a distance "GT", wherein said end point is radially outward of the bead apex. The specification at page 9, lines 8 and 9, indicates that the distance "GT" is preferably less than 0.5 times the distance "GT" when establishing the point Q. Table 1 on page 15 of the specification illustrates the test showing the dimensions found for distance GT and the distance between turnup N and Q. These tests have shown the criticality of

such a distance, especially in contributing to bead durability and crack resistance.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the rejection of all claims and favorable action is respectfully solicited. Therefore it is believed that the claims are now in allowable condition and allowance of the present application is respectfully solicited.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of three (3) months to February 28, 2003, in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$930.00 is enclosed herewith.

Should the Examiner wish to contact Applicants' representative, he may do so by telephoning Edward H. Valance, Reg. No. 19,896, at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington Metropolitan area.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising

a tread portion,

a pair of sidewall portions,

a pair of bead portions each with a bead core therein,

a carcass ply of cords extending between the bead portions through the tread portion and sidewall portions and turned up around the bead core in each bead portion from the axially inside to the outside of the tire to form a pair of turnup portions and a main portion therebetween,

a radially outwardly tapering rubber bead apex disposed between each of the turnup portions and the main portion,

each of the turnup portions extending radially outwardly beyond a radially outer end of the bead apex to form an adjoining part in which carcass cords in the turnup portion adjoin carcass cords in the main portion,

in a meridian section of the tire, the sidewall portion and bead portion on each side of the tire having a profile comprising a first linear portion and a second linear portion each being substantially straight,

said first linear portion extending radially outwards from a point P in substantially parallel to the tire equatorial plane,

said second linear portion extending radially inwards from said point P while inclining axially inwards at an angle of from +15 to +60 degrees with respect to the tire equatorial plane,

[an intersecting angle of said first linear portion and said second linear portion at the point P being in a range of from 15 to 60 degrees,]

a radially outer end of each of the turnup portions being disposed at a radial distance from a point Q which radial distance is in a range of less than 0.5 times a distance (gt) wherein the distance (gt) is defined as measured from said point P to the carcass ply main portion along a straight line drawn from the point P perpendicularly to the carcass ply main portion, and the point Q is defined as a point at which said straight line intersects the carcass ply main portion, and wherein said adjoining part extends radially inwardly beyond the radially inner end of the second linear portion.

5. (Twice Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein in said adjoining part, the distance (t) between the carcass cords of the turnup portion and the carcass cords in the main portion is in a range of from 0.15 to 7.0 times diameter D of the carcass cords, and

said adjoining part includes a parallel part in which the distance (t) is substantially constant [in said adjoining part].

6. (Twice Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein in said adjoining part, the distance (t) between the carcass cords of the turnup portion and the carcass cords in the main portion is in a range of from 0.15 to 7.0 times the diameter D of the carcass cords, and

said adjoining part includes a widening part in which the distance (t) gradually increases towards the radially outer end of the adjoining part.